### HOME INTERESTS.

Home. Home, home, the one spot on the earth That lives in the heart forever and ever; Whether manor born or of plebeian birth.

Though our lot may be cast mid scenes that are gay.
As far away among strangers we roam,
Yet the heart grows sad at thought of the day
We parted in tears from the dear old home.

When slumber's chains our eyelids have bound, In dreams we wander the dear farm o'er, With school mates we visit the old play-ground, Each favorite nook again we explore.

Shall we see them aga'n with our mortal eyes?
Tread over once more each hallowed spot?
Oh, the tender memories that arise
At thought of our home can ne'er be forgot.
Otrawa, Ill,
Weeping Willow.

Bachelor Life on the Frontier. You sisters little know what home means to a bachelor, especially out in the wilderness of mountains. For instance, it means a time looked forward to. It means an era in his existence, in which he sees visions of tranquility, of pleasure, of rest; when he will have forgotten these days of buttonless shirts and delapidated stockings; a time when he will not be forced to do his own cooking, washing, and ironing; a time when his house will be clean and neat, when he will have, in a word, a " wife." That, in his opinion, constitutes a home; thitherward go his day-dreams. I look about my room ward go his day-dreams. I look about my room as I write, and see—what? An apology of a bed jammed in one corner, and if I lift the blanket that hangs to the floor I can see that it hides a collection of boots, stockings, bits of harness, spurs, bootjack, dirty clothes of all colors, dust, dirt, and old newspapers. I see the walls adorned with shot-guns, rifles, revolvers, knives, coats, hats, saddles, bridles, dog-collars and chains, and a variety of other things not worth mentioning. On the shelf rests a clock, that never goes, a couple of silent watches, some eigar boxes, some bottles of horse medicine, and a few books; some trunks and boxes lie loosely a few books; some trunks and boxes lie loosely a few books; some trunks and boxes he loosely around on the floor and the table on which I write. Said table supports a number of penholders, pens, pencils, ink-bottles, thread, needles, lamps, candles, tobacco, pipes, cigars, pooket-knives, matches and all sorts of odds and ends. Add a cavpetless floor, a few chairs, and you have my sitting room, bedroom and and account of the control of the No pen could describe my kitchen, so I will not try.

I sometimes visit other bachelors and find them enjoying the self-same blessings. Now and then one of us will try to put on a little style. He buys a carpet, nails it down to stay with tenpenny nails; does not sew it together, just cuts it off at the required lengths and nails it down; strews his new chairs and lounges about, and invites his friends in to see the transformation. They come, smoke, chew, lounge on his chairs and be 1, tear the new carpet with their spurs and discolor it with tobacco juice, and pay no attention to the owner's hints—not they. So, soon the carpet is pulled up and stowed away under the bed, the chairs are broken, and the bachelor is as he was.

I fear that Weeping Willow is very ill. She

writes extremely gravely. I would recommend an Indian bath. 'I's a sovereign remedy for all the ills that flesh is heir to, at least so says the chief medicine man of the Gros Ventre nation. In case our ailing sister should wish to try such a bath, I will give her the necessary directions for making one:

Take about a dozen green willow (weeping willow) shoots ten feet long, and stick each end in the ground four feet apart, forming a circle; stick them so as to form a sort of wicker dome; dig a hole in the center and put a tub into it, so that its top will be level with the ground; fill said tub with hot water; now take some stones, heated very hot, and throw them into the tub of water. The attendants will now place the patient inside, over the tub, and cover the wicker dome with blankets, fastening them to the ground tightly with sharp pins (wooden). Allow the patient to remain therein

bath. Try one, It is good! I speak from experience. I used to have a girl back in the States. How I did love that girl! She is dead now. I advised her to try a vapor bath. Her attendants left her in one second too long. MONTANIAN. Alas, my girl! FORT SHAW, Mont.

# How to Blench Fern Leaves.

I suppose that many of you have gathered and pressed some beautiful ferns during your visits to the country. The best time to gather ferns for bleaching is when the seeds are found on the back of the leaves, though others can be

bleached successfully.

Ferns may be pressed carefully in a book until required for bleaching. A very beautiful phantom bouquet may be made entirely of bleached ferns. Of course, skeletonized leaves add very much to its beauty, but they may be placed in the bouquet at any time. With the edi-tor's permission I will write you soon of my way of bleaching ferns.

A number of years ago I made a bouquet of ferns and leaves for my father. It was admired by everybody; and it is still in his possession, beautiful yet, but a little yellow, as they will all change in time. When I made that phantom bouquet I had the privilege of selecting from a rare and varied collection of ferns. Many ferns can be bleached successfully, but some varieties are entirely unfit for the purpose. I wish that I could tell you the name of those that would give you trouble, but I only know from my own experience that they were large and coarse, and I did not try a second time to bleach that variety. KITTIE. CRICAGO, III.

# Air and Sunlight.

Air and light are inexpensive, and the very best medicine one can take; but it must be carefully and wisely used, taken in large doses. I know of a family in my neighborhood whose blinds are forever closed. Lovely porches surround the house, but seldom is any one seen there. Flowers will not grow beneath the continual shade of the large trees, and for the same reason—want of light, tinual shade of the large trees, and for the same reason—want of light, sunshine and air—the inmates of that house are delicate, frail beings, and have been so unused to healthy, invigorating air that they are growing more and more like a phantom bouquet. It is only affuestion of a very little time when we know that the oldest daughter must leave the dear ones; and, while they are waiting and watching, they do not seem to read the inevitable awaiting them all. Light and air will prolong life and help to keep the spirits buoyant.

Flowers are not usually expensive, and we always have kind friends who are ready to give us a slip that we can nurse into a plant, and love all the more for the nursing. SUNSZT. HYDE PARK, Ill.

### Lady Inventors.

I have often wondered if any of your lady readers were inventors! "What!" you say, "ladies inventors? When can our toiling women find time to invent?" Many of the most novel and best-paying inventions have been patented by women. Some simple articles to aid then, in their labors have yielded the inven-INVENTOR.

KALAMAZOO, Mich.

### Tomato Catchup.

I come this time with a receipt for making tomato catchup, as now is a very busy time beets, potatoes—the whole a freshwith me, there are so many ways of fixing up colored assortment of green-grocery. tomatoes for winter use. Take perfectly-ripe tomatoes one-half bushel, then put over the fire and let them come to a boil; and, when they are cool enough to bear your hand in, rub them through the sieve; to what goes through add sait, one teacup; allspice and cloves, of each, ground, one teacup; best vinegaa, one

quart. Put on the fire again and cook one hour, stirring to avoid burning; bottle and seal for use. We make it every fall, and think it excellent. WESTERVILLE,

### USEFUL INFORMATION.

To Polish Steel.-Rub it with a piece of emery paper from which you have removed some of the roughness by rubbing an old knife with it.

To Polish Tortoise-shell Arti-CLES.—Take some whiting (having rubbed it between the finger and thumb that there may not be a particle of grit), mix with water to the consistency of cream; rub with a very soft rag; pol-ish with some of the dry whiting.

REMOVING INK-STAINS .- There are various methods of removing ink-stains from white fabrics, but most of them attack the material itself. With colored goods the difficulty is increased, for that which will remove the ink will destroy the color. A European paper now states that if the stain is dipped into hot melted suet or tallow and washed when cold in hot water it will remove the ink together with the fat.

How to Preserve Boots and Shoes. When boots and shoes not in use are deposited in a damp place, they become covered with mold, which attacks the leather; when deposited in a dry place, they become hard and wrinkled-a fact well known to all, although the remedy may not be. This double disadvantage may be avoided if the articles are first rubbed with a rag on which a few drops of turpentine have been sprinkled. The oil of turpentine acts favorably as a preservative to the leather, and is deterrent to rats and mice, whose depredations are often as injurious as those of temperature.

STAINING PINE.—The Northeastern Lumberman recommends the following manner of staining pine to represent black walnut: Put pulverized asphalt-um into a bowl with about twice its bulk of turpentine and set where it is warm, shaking from time to time until and where water is not a beverage, the dissolved; then strain and apply with cost of laying distributing mains has either a cloth or a stiff brush. Try a little first, and if the stain be too dark ing, Jr., in Harper's Magazène. thin it with turpentine. If desirable to bring out the grain still more, give a coat of boiled oil and turpentine.

Ammonia in the Kitchen.—The pantry-shelves are getting grimy, or finger-marks around the door-latches are looking dark and unsightly. For lack of time they are left day after day, for it is hard work to scour all the time, and it wears off the paint, too. The and it wears off the paint, too. The husband keeps his bottle of oil, or perhaps a large can holds it, for he never haps a large can holds it, for he never the stomach, bowels and liver common to such localities. stints in that. Now suppose his wife has her bottle of spirits of ammonia to use; she takes her basin of water and Shower baths, Turkish baths, cold and warm a clean cloth; just puts on a few drops water baths, all fall far behind an Indian vapor of the fluid and wipes off all the dirt. It is worth more than half a day's labor which she gave with exaggerated feeland does not hurt the paint either. She could put a few drops in her dishwater and see how easily the dishes could be cleaned; a few drops on a is so full of soul." "Well, madam, for sponge would clean all the windows in the sitting-room, making them shine like crystals. It would take the stains the sole about it." off the teaspoons, and a teaspoonful in the mop-pail would do more toward washing the kitchen-floor than ten pounds of elbow-grease applied to the mop-handle. A housewife has just as much right to make her work easy and light as her husband has. If she does not do it, the fault is her own in a great measure.

# Morning in Venice.

Little by little business began to take possession of the streets. Bakers'shops and butchers' shops and fish stalls were opened; the din of countless blacksmiths and coppersmiths filled the air at every turn, as though the making of locks and kettles and chimney-pots were the one usurping industry of the world; loud-voiced women called all the people to come and partake of baked pumpkin, fresh and hot, and the melody of mingled street-cries grew to a chorus of supplication.

Lately-risen maidens lowered baskets from their balconies, and fished up catmeat, or bread, or onions, or other household supplies, lowered the coppers for payment, gathered their scanty raiment about them and withdrew. The vender-we knew him at the opera—pocketed his money, tossed his load to his head, and yelled his noisy

way down the alley. In the Piazza beyond the Rialto. where early activity most centers, I took up a commanding position at an out-of-door table, and ordered my "white coffee" and bread and butter. What a rior. wonderful place it was for breakfasting -just for once! What pretty but care-lessly-clad women in black-lace headdresses came from each street and went toward the church; what a clatter the wooden pattens made, and what a gabble the newsboys; what loads of fresh fruit and vegetables the women carried pest; how the urchins gambled for soldi; how unlike everything was to what we see at home, and how unreal one grows to feel himself in watching

The cheap dealers of the Rialto were taking down their shutters and displaytaking down their shutters and displaying their low-priced wares. Boys sat on the broad steps munching bread and reveling in the yellow luxury of broad wedges of hot and savory pumpkin. The purveyors of the adjacent quarters were climbing when you are about your different duties, and noticing the toels you work with, and study how they might be improved. When you get an idea put it into practical form by constructing what will best represent it, then experiment till you perfect the thing desired.

INVENTOR. beyond the lagoons, or stowing away assorted cargoes of white and purple grapes, peaches, figs, lettuce, chicory, radishes, shining white onions, carrots,

hand, and where sharp bargains were driving in sprats and snails and in frac-

tions of the smallest fowl.

Entering a little square shut in by high houses, and, like most Venetian squares, dominated by the unfinished facade of a time-stained church, I noticed a singular activity among the people. They were scurrying in from every alley, and hastening from every house door, with odd-shaped copper buckets on hook-ended wooden bows, and with little coils of rope. Old men and women, boys and girls, all gathered closely about a covered well curb in the middle of the square; and still they hurried on, until they stood a dozen deep around it. Presently the church tower slowly struck 8, and a little old man forced his way through the crowd, passed his ponderous iron key through the lid, and unlocked the well. The kettles went jangling into it, and came slopping out again at an amazing rate, and the people trudged off home, each with a pair of them swung from the shoulder. The wells are deep cisterns, which are filled during the night, and it is out of amiable consideration for those who love their morning nap that they are given as good a chance as their neighbors of getting an unsoiled supply. It is the first instance that has come to my notice of a commendable municipal restraint upon the reprehensible practice of early rising. Few, very few, of those who came for water had had time for their toilets. Their day evidently begins with this excursion

to the public reservoir. Later in my walk I saw a cistern be ing replenished. A barge filled with fresh water lay in the canal near by, and a steam pump forced the supply through a hose to the square, where a gutter carried it to the well. The water is of excellent quality. It is brought through conduits from the Euganean hills, near Padua, but its distribution through the city is carried on in the original manner indicated. For a city where the salt sea is the scavenger, where ablutions are not de rigueur, wisely been spared .- Col. Geo. E. War-

Subduing and Avoiding Fever and Ague. when the wood is thoroughly dry, polish with a mixture of two parts shellac varnish and one part boiled oil. Apply by putting a few drops at a time on a cloth and rubbing briskly over the wood.

AMMONIA IN THE KITCHEN—The ach Bitters is, besides, a most efficient means

### Her Singing.

Theodore Hook was at a musical party at which a certain young lady attempted to sing a very difficult song, ing and a great many blunders. "Don't you adore her singing?" asked a gushing old lady who sat next to Hook; "it my part," answered the wit, "I think the sole about it."

An aged Piute squaw deserted her husband and children to elope to California with a white man. The tribe sent two young and stalwart Indians to bring her back. Their mission was a success, and, at last accounts, the white people of Carson, Nev., which is near by, were interfering to prevent the execution of a sentence that she be drawn apart by horses.

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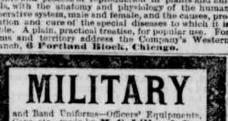
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